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ROAD CONSTRUCTION
TRI-BORDER AREA, LAOS/CAMBODIA
1437N 10731E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE CONTINUING USE OF CAMBODIA BY THE VIET CONG AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY AS PART OF THEIR LOGISTICS NET FROM NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

THE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IS OBSERVED IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF LAOS, CAMBODIA, AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE TRI-BORDER INSURGENCY AREA IS POSITIONED AT THE EASTERN EX-TREMITY OF THE PROBABLE COMMUNIST LOGISTIC NET AND PROBABLY SERVES AS A MAJOR REDISTRIBUTION POINT FOR PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES INTO SOUTH VIETNAM.

INSURGENT ACTIVITY WAS FIRST IDENTIFIED IN THE AREA IN JULY 1965.

COMPLETION, IN MARCH 1966 OF LAOS ROUTE 110, WHICH EXTENDS TO THE TRIBORDER AREA, APPARENTLY HELPED TO SUPPORT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN

INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THIS NORTHEASTERNMOST SECTION OF RATANAKIRI PROVINCE,

C'AMBODIA. NUMEROUS AREAS OF PROBABLE INSURGENT ACTIVITY CONSISTING OF

ENCAMPMENTS AND TRAILS WHICH APPEAR TO BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED, VIA NUMEROUS

WELL CONCEALED TRAILS WITH THE COMMUNIST ROAD NET IN LAOS, ARE EVIDENT

THROUGHOUT THE TONLE KONG AREA.

NGA review(s) completed.

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4. COLLATERAL:		

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IN MAY 1967 A JUNGLE MILITARY POST (BINH TRAM 5) COMPOSED OF THREE BATTALIONS OF THE NVNA 98TH SUPPORT REGIMENT AND AN ADDITIONAL THREE BATTALIONS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT ON AND MAINTENANCE OF ROUTE 110.

ITS HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED AT UTM XB6604 IN CAMBODIA AND CONSISTED OF MORE THAN FIFTY STRAW AND BAMBOO BUILDINGS.

THERE WAS ONE ANTIAIRCRAFT COMPANY WITH EIGHTEEN 12.7 MM GORYUNOV MACHINEGUNS POSITIONED ALONG ROUTE 110 BETWEEN UTM XB6713 AND UTM XB1828. FOURTEEN COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY WERE ALSO STATIONED ALONG ROUTE 110.

STORAGE AREAS WERE LOCATED ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE TONLE KONG INCLUDING A MUNITIONS DEPOT LOCATED AT UTM XB683178 AND FIVE FOOD DEPOTS AT UTM XB682142, UTM XB682163, UTM XB694183, UTM XB704172, AND UTM XB713173. THE MUNITIONS DEPOT WAS FILLED WITH M-1 AND 7.62 MM SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION AND B140 ROUNDS. THE FOOD DEPOTS WERE CONCEALED UNDER HEAVY TREE CANOPY AND WERE ALWAYS MORE THAN SIXTY PERCENT FILLED.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT BINH TRAM 5 HAD ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY TRUCKS
TO MOVE SUPPLIES EAST ALONG ROUTE 110. THE TRUCKS, TRUCK PARTS, AMMUNITION,

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WEAPONS, AND DEMOLITION MATERIALS WERE BOUGHT FROM NORTH VIETNAM. ONE HALF OF THE TRUCKS WERE KEPT BETWEEN THE STORAGE AREA AND "HILL 200" WHERE SUPPLIES WERE TRANSFERRED FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO THE EAST. THE OTHER HALF OF THE TRUCKS WERE LOCATED EAST OF "HILL 200". "HILL 200" WAS ALSO KNOWN AS SE SOU (SIC) AND COULD BE LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF UTM YB1429. ONLY FOUR WHEELED "AUTOBAR" TRUCKS WERE SEEN NEAR THE STORAGE AREA AND NEVER MORE THAN SEVEN OF THESE AT ANY ONE TIME.

DURING THE RAINY SEASON APPROXIMATELY 2,000 BICYCLES WERE USED TO MOVE 1 SUPPLIES EAST ON ROUTE 110.

5. MISSION READOUT:

REVEALS THE EXTENSION OF

THE MOTORABLE PORTION OF LAOS ROUTE 110 FROM ITS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TERMINUS AT UTM YB650205 EAST TO UTM YB696210 AND THEN SOUTHEAST INTO THE CAMBODIA TRI-BORDER AREA AT UTM YB710184.

THE ROAD DIVIDES AT THIS POINT; ONE SEGMENT CONTINUES SOUTH TO UTM YB713169 WITH PROBABLE ROAD CLEARING EXTENDING AN ADDITIONAL 1,500 YARDS, AND THE OTHER SEGMENT CONTINUES GENERALLY NORTHEAST TO UTM YB738209, WITH POSSIBLE ROAD CLEARING EXTENDING AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 YARDS.

A LOOP TURN AROUND IS OBSERVED AT UTM YB669206.

HILLS 1338, 889, AND 875, WHICH ARE NOW IN FRIENDLY HANDS, ARE ALSO OBSERVED.

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UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7012, SHEET 6454I AND SERIES L7014, SHEET 6538 III.

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